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EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

[1] An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312.

To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

[2] Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Robert Goodell (Reg. No. 41,040) on September 22, 2008.

The application has been amended as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please insert the following after the title of the invention:

This application is a national stage application of PCT/JP02/08075 filed on August 7, 2002.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

[3] The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The instant invention relates to spark plug manufacturing using an imaging device.

[4] Prior art was found for and applied in the previous actions. Applicant uniquely claimed by amendment distinct features in the instant invention, which are not found in the prior art, either singularly or in combination.

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[5] Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

[6] Claims 1, 6-8 and 12-14 are allowed.

Contact Information

[7] Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mr. Sath V. Perungavoor whose telephone number is (571) 272-7455. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday from 8:30am to 5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. Matthew C. Bella whose telephone number is (571) 272-7778, can be reached on Monday to Friday from 9:00am to 5:00pm. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Dated: October 3, 2008

/Matthew C Bella/
Supervisory Patent Examiner,
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